SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This cess is being used only for development.. (*Interruptions*). The cess, Madam is one rupee per kilogram and in 1994-95 we collected Rs. 19.82 crores.

मौलाना अबेदुल्लाखान आजमी : मैडम, मेरी जानकारी के तहत विश्व बैंक के जरिये मुखतलिफ विकास कार्यों के लिए दी गई बहुत बड़ी रकम बगैर इस्तेमाल के पड़ी है । क्या रबड़ बोर्ड को विश्व बैंक के जरिये कुछ रकमें ऐसी भी दी गई हैं जो इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रही हैं ? अगर हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों में गैर इस्तेमालशुदा राशियों के क्या आंकड़े हैं ?

†مولانا عبیداللہ خاں اعظمی: میڈم میری جانکاری کے تحت وشو بینک کے ذریعے مختلف وکاس کاریوں کیلئے دی گئی بہت بڑی رقم بغیر استعمال کے پڑی ہے۔ کیا ربڑ بورڈ کو وشو بینک کے ذریعے کچھ رقمیں ایسی بھی دی گئی ہیں جو استعمال نہیں ہو رہی ہیں اگر ہاں۔ تو پچھلے تین ورشوں میں غیر استعمال شدہ راشیوں کیا آنکڑے ہیں۔

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I did not say it was unutilised. On the contrary, I said that it was being utilised.

उपसभापति : यूटिलाइज हो गयी है । Mr. Singla. I don't think there is anything on this question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Madam, actually I would like to the hon. Minister whether the Rubber Research Institute of India is fully equipped with modern technology. If it is not, what steps is the Government of India taking to make all facilities available to it so that the utilisation of the research institute world be more proper?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said, the RRII is doing splendid work. I think it is equipped fully. But, as in any other research institutions, there will always be demand for more equipment and more facilities. When I visit Kerala in a couple of weeks, I intend to go to the RRII. If they do point out any deficiencies certainly my personal view and the Government's view in the matter is that we should support fully and substaintially the research work. We will provide funds and whatever they require to continue their good work.

Import of Copper

74. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) the countries from which copper is being imported at present?

(b) the reasons for importing copper from these countries;

(c) whether Government propose to discontinue import of copper in view of the surplus production this year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) To meet the gap between domestic demand and supply, copper is being imported mainly from Zambia, U.S.A., Russia, Zaire Republic, U.K. and Singapore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether import of copper is being done through global ten-

†[] Transliteration in Arabic script.

ders or through negotiations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the import of copper has adversely affected the economic interest of demostic producers like Hindustan Copper Ltd. and other.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Copper is under the OGL. Anyone can import copper. I am not in a position to say whether the people importer does it through global tenders or he makes on the spot purchase. He is free to import in whether manner he likes. It is not correct to say that domestic manufacturers of copper are affected. There is a vast gap between demand and supply. For exemple, in 1993-94 the demand was about 2,00,000 *metric tons whereas the domestic production* was only 47,000 metric tons. In order to need this gap imports have to be allowed and copper has been placed under the OGL.

SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Madam. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Mines have appealed to the Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry of Commerce to go in for graded duty differential between the raw material and the finished products as was existing earlier.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I can give the figures of Customs duty levied on copper. Whether there is a request addressed to the Finance Minister for a change in the rate of duty. I am not in a position to answer. In the Union Budget for 1995-96, Custom duty has been reduced from 50 per cent in 35 per cent *ad valorem* on copper cathode and wire bar and 40 per cent *ad valorem* on copper wire roll. Whether further changes have to be made in the rate of duty is a question which only the Finance Minister can answer.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, actually the thrust of the question, while asking for the countries from where copper is imported is regarding the reasons for imports and whether the Government is proposing to discontinue import of copper in view of the surplus production. Surplus production is not there. The Minister has said that the demand was for 2,00,000 metric tons and the domestic production was 47,000 metric tons. The point is that the local copper mining and local copper units are suffering because of the import policy. There is a demand. As the Commerce Minister has said there is a gap between demand and supply and he has placed it under the OGL. How far the interest of the local units, whether open-cast mines, underground mines, Ghatsila mines or various State units, is affected? The Hindustan Copper Ltd., being the monopolist unit, has not been looking after the interest of the smaller units. While the Minister is interested in importing copper from outside, Will he also look into the problem of domestic production of copper?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam with great respect to my distinguished friend, the Hindustan Copper Khetri capacity today is only 31,000 tonnes per annum and Ghatsila's capacity is 16,500 tonnes per annum. The total production approximately 47,000 tonnes per annum But the demand is for 2,00,000 tonnes. Copper is a vital raw material. It is required by many industries. These industries require copper. It must be available at the international price so that the industrial products are also competitive. Therefore the decision to place copper on OGL, in my submission, is a correct decision. It is a wise decision. It does not affect the existing manufacturers who barely meet 25 per cent of the demand.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Madam, I have seen a statement of the Hindustan Copper authorities. In 1994-95, they made a nominal profit of Rs. 5 crores. As a consequence of the slashing down of import duties in the 1995-96 budget there will be a severe setback which might even amount to a loan of Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 crores. I can quite understand the Government's anxiety to supply copper at slightly cheaper rates to the manufacturers. But we have to balance the

consideration by the fact that we have this unit in the country, producing copper. It is struggling to produce copper. For example, if as a consequence of your import duty policy, this unit is forced to close shop, then a time might arise when you will be a hundred per cent dependent on foreign supplies. Whether it is a desirable thing or not, I would inquire of the Government humbly to let us know.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, it is not correct to say, as I said, that the domestic units are affected. As I said, the domestic units could barely meet 25 per cent of the demand. If additional capacity is established in India, I am sure, they will produce copper efficiently. When they produce copper efficienty, they don't have to fear imports. There is a major constraint. There are a variety of reasons why some of them don't produce copper efficiently. For example, copper mined in India contains, on an average, only one per cent copper whereas the world average is about three per cent. Therefore, we have rather poor quality copper ore deposits. There is only the Hindustan Copper which has a capacity of 47,000 tonnes. In these circumstances, the only conclusion anyone can arive at is, in order to meet the domestic demand in order keep the industries based on copper growing and keep them competitive, we have to import copper. I have the landed price of copper. The landed price of copper is slightly higher than the domestic price of copper. In fact, I am told that taking advantage of this higher landed price, the Hindustan Copper may even increase its price. That is a commercial decision and it is for them to take. (*Interruptions*). I have the figures which show that the landed price of copper is marginally higher than the domestic prices. At one point of time it might be marginally lower and at another point of time, it might be margially higher. The point is, the Hindustan Copper or any other person who is putting up a copper plant today should produce copper efficiently. That is the only way to increase the efficiency of downstream plants which are based on copper. Today, the decision to place copper on OGL is a correct decision. It is the only decision which will help our industry.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Madam, if you permit me I would like to put one supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: The Hindustan Copper is a part of the Department of Minerals. It is a part of the total Government entity. Is it not at all possible for your Ministry and the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Mines to sit together and sort this thing our so that the public sector unit does not go into discuss.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the hon. Minister accepts that the landed price is higher than the domestic price. At the same time he seems to be very much concernd about the low copper content in the ore. He is obviously concerned about the efficient running of the units. This is really a complicated situation and a contradictory situation too. Therefore, the question arises, whether the domestic production can be increased, since, despite the element of inefficiency, the price is low. The main concern is and the main question is: How and in what way can we increase the domestic production which will save our foreign exchange and which will also stimulate our domestic production? Keeping that point in view, may I ask the hon. Minister to inform the House whether there are a number of copper mines around Musabali near Ghatshila which are not being developed and explored. Some of the old mines are exhausted and new mines have not been developed. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That does not concern his Ministry. You can speak to the Minister of Steel and Mines. The Minister of Commerce cannot talk about it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But my point is whether in view of the fact that the domestic price is lower than the landed price, the hon. Minister would take up the matter with the Minister of Mines so that domestic production could be augmented. Some of the undeveloped and under developed mines near Musabali could be explored.. *(Interruptions)*.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Keeping in view the joint responsibility of the Government, Mr. Chidambaram I request you to please discuss it with your colleague and formulate a policy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Minister of Mines knows as much and surely more about mining than I do. There are four major copper plants coming up in India. The Hindustan Copper is also expanding its capacity, which means that more mines will be worked. In order to meet the additional capacity that has been put up, obviously, mines will have to be worked. I have no doubt. if the hon. Member puts the question to the Minister of Mines, he will give him full details about that mines that are being worked and the new plants that are coming up.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I seek your protection, Madam. In view of the price problem, it is his responsibility to see that positive steps are taken to augment the domestic production. I do not want information. I want the Government, I want this Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministry of Mines.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have told him and he will talk to his colleague. As a responsible Member of the House, you can also write to the Minister.

Delay in Execution of Projects

*745. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the top five on going projects in Power, Surface Transport, Coal, Steel; Irrigation; Railways; Civil Aviation; Urban Development Petroleum and Natural Gas, Communications sectors where time and cost over-run was maximum and details thereof project-wise with original stipulations in terms of cost and time profile and extent of cost and time over-run;

(b) details of reasons for the same project-wise;

(c) the general trend in terms of timely execution of projects within the stipulated cost over the last four years; and

(d) details of specific steps taken|proposed to cutdown cost and time over-run while executing major projects and fix up the responsibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANGO): (a) and (b) There are projects which have time over run and projects which have cost over run. There are also projects which have both time and cost over runs. A Statement is laid on the Table of the House which indicates for different sectors the top five cases and reasons thereof in regard to cost over run and time over run with reference to original approved estimates Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) There is a trend towards improvement in the timely execution of the projects within the stipulated cost.

(d) The details of specific steps taken proposed to be taken to cutdown cost and time over run may be seen in the Statement-II—laid on the Table of the House.